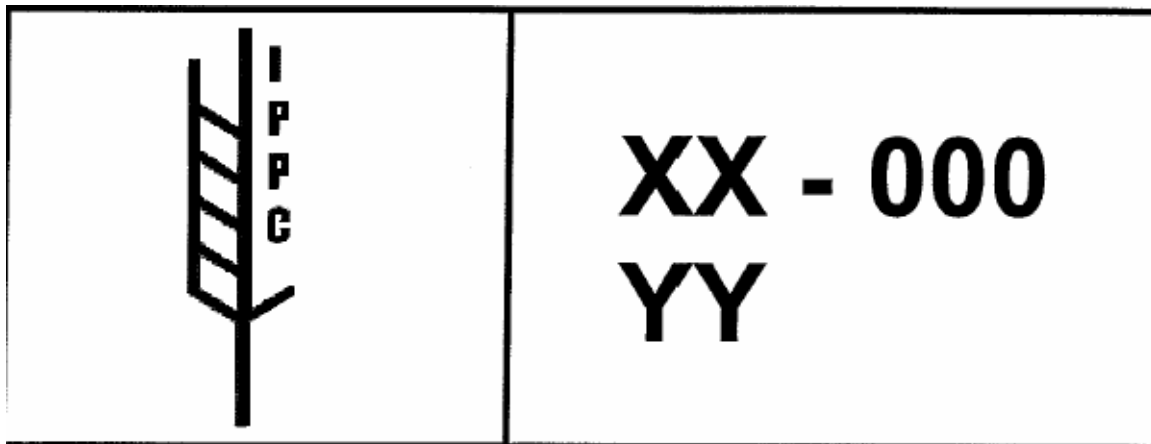


Implementation of the Wood Packaging Material (WPM) Regulation

APHIS revised the import regulations for WPM to be consistent with the International Plant Protection Convention standard ISPM #15. The regulation restricts the importation of many types of wooden packaging materials such as pallets, crates, boxes, and dunnage. The revised WPM regulation is effective September 16, 2005. The regulation requires WPM in use in international trade to be treated. The approved treatments are 1) heat treatment to a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes or 2) fumigation with methyl bromide. The term “solid wood packing material” used in previous USDA import regulations has been changed to “wood packaging material” to be consistent with ISPM #15.

WPM must be marked with the IPPC logo and the two letter ISO code for the country that treated the WPM. The marking must also include the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization to the company responsible for ensuring the WPM was properly treated, and either the abbreviation HT (heat treatment) or MB (methyl bromide). Paper certification (treatment certificates) will not be required.

Example of the WPM mark:



XX represents the ISO country code.

000 represents the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization.

YY represents either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation.

Exemptions:

WPM made entirely of manufactured wood material (e.g. particle board, plywood, oriented strand board) and wine and whiskey barrels, or WPM made entirely of thin pieces of wood, (6mm thickness or less) is exempted from the treatment and marking requirements. WPM made of Canadian origin wood is also exempted from the treatment/marketing requirements (7CFR 319.40-3). Since determining wood origin will be very difficult and Canada is implementing ISPM #15 requirements, WPM arriving from Canada will be allowed to enter the U.S. without the IPPC mark. WPM from Canada should be inspected for pests.

Implementation Phases:

A. First Year of Implementation (From present – September 15, 2005)

The revised WPM regulation is effective September 16, 2005. During the 1 year implementation phase, WPM may be imported if in compliance with either current import requirements **or** the international standard for WPM (ISPM#15).

B. Full Implementation–Importations after September 15, 2005

All WPM must be treated and marked in accordance with the regulation 7CFR 319.40-3(b), excluding WPM exempted by the regulation. WPM imported after September 15, 2005 without the IPPC mark must be reexported. Treatment or destruction will not be permitted. Unmarked WPM may be separated from the merchandise for reexport, if the inspector determines separation can be done without pest escape. A user fee will be assessed for the inspection and Treatment will be allowed if hitchhiking (non-wood) pests are intercepted with IPPC marked WPM.